

William and Della Haines House
216 Coleridge Avenue
Llyswen Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5883

HABS

PA

7-ALTO.

131-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM AND DELLA HAINES HOUSE

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Location: 216 Coleridge Ave.

Date of Erection: 1961

Description: The front-gabled ell on this traditional suburban ranch house incorporates a two-car garage with side-street access into the conservative main aspect of the house facing Coleridge Avenue. The modest front gable and low roofline belie the size of the interior. Shed dormers across the entire back allow for a nearly full-blown second story. An irregularly coursed rough-stone veneer encases the front and sides of the first story, and relates the home's long, low lines to its site. The rear and upper story are sheathed in wide clapboard that emphasizes the home's typically horizontal, ranch character. A wide picture window, subordinated entry, and low foundation shrubbery complete a comfortable, contemporary suburban effect.

History: This modern home, completed in 1961, occupies a highly desirable corner lot first purchased in 1903 for \$700, sold two years later for \$750, and sold again in 1908 for \$1,100 to Elizabeth Stewart, a widow who lived on 40th Street in South Altoona. She never built on the lot, which was then twice the size of the present house's site. Through the years, neighborhood children used it as a playground and ballfield. In 1944 Stewart, by then living in Columbus, Ohio, with her daughter, Nellie, and Nellie's husband, Henry Hoover, gave the lot to her daughter. The Llyswen Methodist Church bought the property in 1946, ostensibly as the site for a new sanctuary, but the regional church office eventually decided the lot was too small to provide for both a new building and the amount of parking space required. Llyswen Methodist sold the vacant lot to William and Della Haines in 1958 for \$3,200. This house first appears on the 1961 tax roll in their names, but the Haines sold the corner portion of the property to John and Mary Houser in December 1960, and that deed also specifies a dwelling, designated 216 Coleridge Ave. John Houser was an engineer for the PRR. The house sold in 1970 for \$28,000, again in 1976 for an unspecified sum, and in 1978 to the present owners for \$57,000. This doubling of market value in a period when many larger but older Llyswen homes were severely devalued clearly suggests that modern homes were preferred and that the neighborhood itself was still highly desirable.

Sources: Map: 1963. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 143/659, 157/352, 181/518, 487/363, 551/416, 755/11, 783/49, 904/121, 979/687, 1017/977.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as *Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania* (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.